

Listing of the Claims:

1. (Previously Amended) In a communication system a method for routing bearer traffic between a 3G network and a 2G network, the method for routing bearer traffic comprising the steps of:

if a calling party is roaming into a first network, determining by the first network a local gateway of the first network and in proximity to a calling party;

sending the bearer traffic by the first network to the local gateway; and

directly routing the bearer traffic from the local gateway to a called party through a second network in proximity to the called party.

2. (Original) In a communication system, the method for routing bearer traffic as claimed in claim 1, wherein there is further included a step of determining a location of the called party.

3. (Original) In a communication system, the method for routing bearer traffic as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first network includes the 2G network currently serving the calling party.

4. (Original) In a communication system, the method for routing bearer traffic as claimed in claim 3, wherein the second network includes the 3G network currently serving the called party.

5. (Original) In a communication system, the method for routing bearer traffic as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first network includes the 3G network currently serving the calling party.

6. (Original) In a communication system, the method for routing bearer traffic as claimed in claim 5, wherein the second network includes the 2G network currently serving the called party.

7. (Original) In a communication system, the method for routing bearer traffic as claimed in claim 1, wherein the step of directly routing the bearer traffic includes a step of inhibiting transmission of the bearer traffic to a home gateway, if the calling party is roaming.
8. (Original) In a communication system, the method for routing bearer traffic as claimed in claim 1, wherein there is further included a step of routing the bearer traffic from the local gateway through an inter-connect network between the first and second networks to the called party.
9. (Previously Amended) A method for routing bearer traffic between a first network and a second network, the method for routing bearer traffic comprising the steps of:
 - if a calling party is roaming in the first network, determining by the first network a local gateway of the first network and in proximity to the calling party; and
 - directly routing the bearer traffic from the local gateway to a called party through the second network in proximity to the called party.
10. (Original) The method for routing bearer traffic as claimed in claim 9, wherein there is further included a step of sending the bearer traffic by the first network to the local gateway.
11. (Original) The method for routing bearer traffic as claimed in claim 9, wherein the step of directly routing the bearer traffic includes a step of inhibiting transmission of the bearer traffic to a home gateway, if the calling party is roaming.
12. (Original) The method for routing bearer traffic as claimed in claim 9, wherein there is further included a step of determining a location of the called party.
13. (Original) The method for routing bearer traffic as claimed in claim 9, wherein the first network includes a 2G network currently serving the calling party.

14. (Original) The method for routing bearer traffic as claimed in claim 13, wherein the second network includes a 3G network currently serving the called party.

15. (Original) The method for routing bearer traffic as claimed in claim 9, wherein the first network includes a 3G network currently serving the calling party.

16. (Original) The method for routing bearer traffic as claimed in claim 15, wherein the second network includes a 2G network currently serving the called party.

17. (Original) The method for routing bearer traffic as claimed in claim 9, wherein there is further included a step of routing the bearer traffic from the local gateway through an inter-connect network between the first and second networks to the called party.

18-20. (Cancelled)

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-referenced application is respectively requested in view of the above amendments and these remarks. Claims 1-17 are currently pending.

Claims 1-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the admitted prior art in view of United States Patent No. 7,200,400 B2 to Creamer et al. and further in view of United States Patent No. 5,479,478 to Fath. Applicants have reviewed the pending claims, Creamer, Fath and the Office Action and respectfully traverse the rejection. In particular, Applicants respectfully submits that the admitted prior art, Creamer and Fath do not disclose that the bearer traffic is directly routed from the local gateway, which is in proximity to the calling party, to the called party in the second network that is in proximity to the called party.

Applicants have previously described the claims, the admitted prior art and Creamer as well as described the patentability of the claims. Those arguments are incorporated here by reference and will not be repeated by unless otherwise necessary.

The claims avoid tromboning of bearer traffic in a network of a called party by having the new network, i.e. the claimed first network of the calling party, determine a gateway that directly routes the bearer traffic to the network of the called party. The claims also avoid tromboning by having the gateway be chosen based on its location relative to the calling party. Once the gateway in proximity to the calling party is located, the claims make clear that the bearer traffic is routed directly to the called party in the second network that is in proximity to the called party. Thus, the claims indicate that the call is routed from the calling party to the gateway in the first network to the called party in the second network. The claims do not involve the gateway in the second network, and this is evident when the claims indicate that the bearer traffic is routed from the gateway directly to the called party.

Fath is directed to a pull communication system that enables a call from a calling party to a called party to be completed directly, irrespective of the location of the called party within a cellular telephone system. A calling party is directed to a pull central office that creates switching information used to connect the called party to the calling party. The pull central office includes a switch for receiving the calling signal at a first